

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

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PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS BEACH MONITORING RESULTS

DES MOINES — The DNR will be holding public meetings around the state regarding beach monitoring results for a number of state park beaches.

At the public meetings, DNR staff will discuss recent bacteria results from the beach and surrounding watershed, and will be available for a question and answer session.

“We hope these meetings will educate the public on bacteria at beaches and inform them of what is being done to locate sources of bacteria,” said Janice Boekhoff, DNR research geologist. “We also want to let them know how they can help decrease bacteria levels in their area.”

Public meetings will be held at the following dates and places for these state park beaches:

- Geode
Tuesday, Oct. 5
7 p.m.
Danville Community Building
104 W Shepherd St., Danville
- Beed’s Lake
Thursday, Oct. 14
7 p.m.

First National Bank of Hampton, basement meeting room
211 1st St. NW, Hampton

- Rock Creek
Tuesday, Oct. 19
7 p.m.
Old Glove Factory, Pioneer Room
733 Broad St., Grinnell
- Big Creek
Friday, Oct. 29
7 p.m.
Des Moines Area Community College
Building 7 Conference Center, Oak Rook
2206 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny
- Lake Macbride
Tuesday, Nov. 9
7 p.m.
Solon Public Library
320 W. Main St., Solon

For more information, contact Janice Boekhoff at (319) 931-6050 or at jboekhoff@igsb.uiowa.edu.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT FOR SWAN LAKE WATER QUALITY PLAN

CARROLL — Plans for improving water quality at Swan Lake in Carroll County will be discussed at a public meeting Oct. 12. The meeting will be held at the East Side Shelterhouse at Swan Lake at 9 a.m. Comments on the draft plan will be received through Nov. 5.

A draft TMDL - or Total Maximum Daily Load - has been developed for Swan Lake. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use, such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or being used as a drinking water supply.

TMDLs also include plans on how water quality can be improved through conservation efforts in the respective watersheds. After receiving public comments, the TMDL will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

Swan Lake is impaired due to algae and turbidity that cause aesthetically objectionable conditions at the lake. Nuisance algal blooms are the consequence of excess nutrients,

usually phosphorous, which is carried into the lake during runoff or re-suspended from lake sediments. These conditions promote heavy algal blooms through the summer and fall leading to the predominance of blue-green algae, limited clarity, floating algal scum and the prevalence of rough fish.

The lake's designated uses are for primary body contact such as swimming and maintaining aquatic life for fishing.

Recommendations made by the DNR for improving water quality at Swan Lake include:

- Improve nutrient management on row crop ground to achieve optimum soil test range.
- Incorporation or subsurface application of commercial fertilizers and manure.
- Promote the use of grass buffers, cover crops and permanent vegetation to reduce phosphorus movement.

In addition to watershed controls, there are additional improvements occurring in Swan Lake. These include the modification of the spillway and removal of excess populations of rough fish (common carp).

All draft TMDLs can be obtained and comments made using the following resources:

- Internet: www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html
- E-mail: jerry.neppel@dnr.state.ia.us
- Telephone: Jerry Neppel at (515) 242-6149
- Mail: Jerry Neppel, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact Jerry Neppel at (515) 242-6149 or Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.

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PLAY SAFE AND BE CERTIFIED FOR MANURE APPLICATION

DES MOINES – Both private and commercial manure applicators need to make sure that they are certified before land applying manure this fall.

“Everyone who is applying manure from a confinement feeding operation that has more than 500 animal units needs to be certified,” said Jeff Prier, coordinator of the DNR manure applicator certification program. “This includes confinement operations that are located out-of-state, but apply manure in Iowa.”

Anyone who transports, hauls, stores, handles or applies manure from a confinement site should be certified.

Prier added that those who aren't currently certified can fulfill training requirements by scheduling an appointment to watch a video training at their local Extension office. Or, they can contact the local DNR field office to schedule a test date.

If an applicator has questions about the expiration date of their certificate, they can call Carol Arpy at (515) 281-6581 in Des Moines.

The DNR issues commercial certificates annually and they expire on March 1. Private or confinement site applicator certificates are issued for three years, ending on Dec. 31 of the third year.

Prier added that the DNR will be seeking penalties for any applicators who are found land applying manure without a valid certificate.

For more information, contact Jeff Prier, at 712-262-4177.

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SIGNS REQUIRED FOR COMMERCIAL MANURE APPLICATOR EQUIPMENT

DES MOINES – Commercial manure applicators must display information about the business on any vehicles or tanks used to haul manure on public roads.

The information is required by state law and includes the business' certificate number, the manager's name and a complete mailing address for the manager.

"There has been a lot of confusion over the requirement to have the manager's name and address displayed," said Jeff Prier, coordinator of the DNR's manure applicator certification. "Managers can use the business' address or their own home address, but it must be a complete mailing address."

The information must be displayed with letters that are three inches high or larger.

There is no requirement for signage on non-commercial vehicles, so confinement site manure applicators who do not charge a fee do not need signage, Prier said.

For more information, contact Jeff Prier at (712) 262-4177.

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DNR REMINDS MANURE APPLICATORS TO INJECT, INCORPORATE OR STAY AWAY

DES MOINES – Manure applicators should stay at least 200 feet away from protected areas, unless they incorporate on the same day or inject manure.

This separation distance must be maintained by all confinement feeding operations and all open feedlots when spreading manure.

“Protected areas include areas such as sink holes, abandoned wells and ag drainage wells,” said Jeff Prier, coordinator of the DNR’s manure applicator certification program.

Manure applicators must also maintain 800 feet between surface-applied manure that is not incorporated on the same day and high quality water resources.

“A water source is basically any stream or ditch that has definite banks and water flow,” Prier said. “Most lakes and ponds are considered water sources, but a well-maintained grassed waterway is not.”

High quality water resources are found in about half of Iowa’s counties and include trout streams in the northeast; the natural, great lakes area in the northwest; and other streams or lakes that have high water quality, or recreational or ecological significance.

A 750-foot separation distance from buildings such as residences or schools, and public use areas remains in effect for surface manure application if the manure comes from a confinement feeding operation with more than 500 animal units.

More information on separation distances can be found on the DNR Web site at <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wastewtr/feedlot/sepdstb4.pdf>. A list of high quality water resources can be found at <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wastewtr/feedlot/files/hqwr2.pdf>.

For more information, contact Jeff Prier at (712) 262-4177.